



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.             | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/765,245                  | 01/26/2004  | Javier Barrera       | 1535306-0003        | 1772             |
| 7470                        | 7590        | 06/03/2009           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| WHITE & CASE LLP            |             |                      | NGUYEN, THUY-VI THI |                  |
| PATENT DEPARTMENT           |             |                      |                     |                  |
| 1155 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
| NEW YORK, NY 10036          |             |                      | 3689                |                  |
|                             |             |                      | MAIL DATE           | DELIVERY MODE    |
|                             |             |                      | 06/03/2009          | PAPER            |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/765,245             | BARRERA ET AL.      |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | THUY VI NGUYEN         | 3689                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 March 2009.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-66 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-66 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the applicant's communication filed on 03/11/2009, wherein  
Claims 1-66 are currently pending;  
Claims 1-5, 9, 20, 29, 36, 47, 51, 60, and 62 have been amended;

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. **Claims 1-28, 47-50, 60-66** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 based on Supreme Court precedent, and recent Federal Circuit decisions, the Office's guidance to examiners is that a § 101 process must
  - (1) be tied to another statutory class (such as a particular apparatus) or
  - (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or materials). *Diamond v. Diehr*, 450 U.S. 175, 184 (1981); *Parker v. Flook*, 437 U.S. 584, 588 n.9 (1978); *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 70 (1972). If neither of these requirements is met by the claim, the method is not a patent eligible process under §101 and is non-statutory subject matter. With respect to claims **1-28, 47-50, 60-66**, the claim language does not transform the underlying subject matter and the process is not tied to another statutory class. The process steps of "*maintaining a centralized inventory system, receiving a request for a pricing, generating a quote, transmitting the quote...*" is not tied to another statutory class, such as an apparatus, and thus, the claims are directed to nonstatutory subject matter. Even though the preamble recites "*a computer*

*implemented method*, the involvement of the machine or transformation in the bodies of claimed process must not merely be insignificant extra-solution activity. See *Flook*, 437 U.S. at 590. Therefore the claims are directed to nonstatutory subject matter.

Note: Insertion of the use of another statutory class (computer) such as "computer-implemented" or "using a computer" features in the preamble and the critical functions/bodies of the claims would overcome the rejections.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

**3. Claims 1-66** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

1) Claim 1 step (a) recites "maintaining.....wherein the centralized inventory system is configured for maintaining a single repository of data.....facilities" is unclear. Why "a single repository of data associated with a booking of the facilities" in step (a) and what are the relationship of these items to steps (b)-(d)? There is no discussion of these features in steps (b)-(d)?

2) Claim 29 is rejected for the same reason sets forth claim 1 as indicated above.

3) Claim 47 step (a) recites "maintaining.....configured for maintaining a single repository of centrally-generated price and availability data.....entities" is unclear. Why "a single repository of centrally-generated price" in step (a) and what are the

relationship of these items to steps (b)-(g)? There is no discussion of these features in steps (b)-(g)?

4) Claim 51 is rejected for the same reason sets forth claim 47 as indicated above.

5) Claim 60 step (a) recites "receiving.....centralized inventory system is configured for maintaining a single repository of data associated with pricing and booking facilities" is unclear. Why "a single repository of data associated with a pricing of the facilities" in step (a) and what are the relationship of these items to steps (b)-(d)? There is no discussion of these features in steps (b)-(d)?

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

**4. Claims 29-46 and 51-59, 60-66** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GEOGHEGAN ET AL (US 7,328,166)

**As for independent claim 29,** GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses a hospitality management computer system for providing quotes associated with facilities of geographically distributed business entities of a hospitality organization, the hospitality management system {see figure 1, col. 5, lines 50-67} comprising:

a) a processor {figure 1, col. 6, lines 51-60; col. 16, lines 30-47};

b) memory means comprising a centralized inventory system comprising a data storage system configured as a single repository for storage and retrieval of data associated with booking the facilities of any of the business entities; and

{see figures 1-3, col. 3, lines 36-41; col. 5, lines 40-49; col. 7, lines 63-67 disclose a central database that functions as a primary source for verifying reservations and hotel data, a single-view inventory system allow the user to use whatever booking sources}

c) a display screen providing a central interface in communication with the centralized inventory system and the business entities and accessible by customer entities and configured for booking at least one of the facilities of at least one of the business entities,

{see figures 1-3, col. 5, lines 51-67, col. 6, lines 1-54; discloses (*centralized database in communication with the interface*) and col. 8, lines 46-62 discloses the reservation process and claim 13}

the centralized inventory system comprising computer code adapted for generating quotes {see figures 1-2, col. 25, lines 21-67, *RMS database 250 adapted for rate calculation/quote determine (210)*}.

Note: for convenience, letters (a)–(c) are added to the beginning of each element.

Note: As for the phrase " a data storage system configured as a single repository for storage and retrieval of all data with booking .....entities", this is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL as cited in step (b) above. Furthermore, the feature of the

centralized inventory system is configured as a one or more repositories or databases for storage and retrieval information is not that essential. It would have been obvious for maintaining information into plurality of databases or different storages in order to improved the redundancy in case of failure or combine all information into a single database for the convenience of accessing information as long as the information or data can be queried, accessed, and retrieved from one single database or multiple databases.

**As for claims 30-31,** GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein the customer entity comprises a customer, a sales entity of the hospitality organization (agent) {see figure 1}.

**As for claims 32-33,** which deals with the centralized inventory system, comprises real time data, e.g. generating quote. This is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL, {see col. 3, and lines 5-16}.

**As for claim 34,** GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses centralized inventory system is further adapted for booking a facility {see figure 2, booking 230}.

**As for claim 35,** GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses central interface is adapted for receiving requests for quotes from a plurality of channels {see figure 1, e.g. GDS channel, internet, agent}.

**As for claims 36-37,** GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein at least a subset of the business entities communicate electronically with the hospitality management system {see figure 1, for different entities PMS, travel agent 35 that communicate with the RMS 10} and wherein the central interface is adapted for communicating with the

business entities {see figure 1, central reservation system, and PMS; col. 16, lines 31-47}

**As for claim 38-39,** GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses further comprising a revenue management system in communication with the centralized inventory system for generating quote in real time {see figure 2, rate calculation 210 and RMS database 250; col. 3, lines 5-17},

**As for claims 40-44,** which deals with the well known centralized inventory system comprises a processing system for generating price in real time data; this is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL {see figures 1-2; see col. 3, lines 5-17}.

**As for claims 45-46,** which deals with the business system in communication with the centralized inventory management system for booking the facilities upon the customer request e.g. room preferences. This is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL, see figure 2, col. 8, lines 63-67, col. 9, lines 1-9; col. 15, lines 26-28}.

**As for independent claim 51,** GEOGHEGAN ET AL disclose a centralized computer system for managing pricing and booking of facilities of geographically distributed business entities of a hospitality organization, the centralized system comprising:

- a) a processor; {figure 1, col. 6, lines 51-60; col. 16, lines 30-47};
- b) memory means comprising a centralized inventory system configured for maintaining a single repository of data associated with pricing and booking of the facilities;

{see figures 1-2, (RMS database 250), col. 3, lines 5-8; col. 3, 36-41; col. 5, lines 40-48; col. 7, lines 61-67; col. 8, lines 19-21 discloses *system that enables one view of hospitality industry inventory data, a centralized inventory repository is a single view inventory system allow a user to use for booking*};

c) an application server in communication with the centralized inventory system over a network, the application server being accessible over the network by the centralized inventory system

{see figures 1-3, col. 5, lines 50-67, Reservations Management System (RMS) 10, RMS database (250), web server (65)},

c)a display screen providing a central interface, the display screen in communication with the centralized inventory system, the application server and at least one external system, the networked configured for supporting communications between the centralized inventory system, the application server, and the at least one external system;

{see figures 1-2, col. 5, lines 51-67, col. 6, lines 1-54; (*Reservation management System, having a database 250, Property Management System (entities) or external system, booking (230 and col. 44, lines 56-64 (centralized database in communication with the interface)*)}.

Note: As for the phrase "the centralized inventory system configured for maintaining as a single repository of data associated with pricing and booking of the facilities", this is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL as cited in step (b) above. Furthermore, the feature of the centralized inventory system is configured as a one or

more repositories or databases for storage and retrieval information is not that essential. It would have been obvious for maintaining information into plurality of databases or different storages in order to improved the redundancy in case of failure or combine all information into a single database for the convenience of accessing information as long as the information or data can be queried, accessed, and retrieved from one single database or multiple databases.

**As for claim 52**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein the data associated with pricing and booking of the facilities comprises real-time data {see col. 3, lines 5-17 and lines 65-67, col. 4, lines 1-3}

**As for claim 53**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein the external system comprises a system operated by a customer entity {see figure 1, consumer 40 and agent 35}.

**As for claims 54-56**, which deals with the external system, comprises a system operated by one of the plurality of business entities of the hospitality organization, a property management system, and a sales support system (agent), a revenue management system, and a global distribution system (GDS). This is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL {see figures 1-2}.

**As for claim 59**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein the facilities comprise properties of a hotel chain {see figure 1, hotel facility 30, and see col. 6, lines 5-7, and figure 1}.

**As for independent claim 60**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL disclose a method for managing one of a plurality of business entities of a hospitality organization, the method comprising:

(a) receiving over a network, from an inventory system centralized with respect to the plurality of business entities, booking data associated with booking of facilities of the business entity

{see abstract, figures 1-3, RMS database 250,350 with respect to plurality of business entities, booking 230} and

Wherein the centralized inventory system is configured for maintaining a single repository of data associated with pricing and booking of the facilities;

{see figures 1-2, (RMS database 250), col. 3, lines 5-8; col. 3, 36-41; col. 5, lines 40-48; col. 7, lines 61-67; col. 8, lines 19-21 discloses *system that enables one view of hospitality industry inventory data, a centralized inventory repository is a single view inventory system allow a user to use for booking*};

(b) assigning resources (facilities) of the business entity based on the booking data received from the centralized system

{see col.18, lines 41-45, 55-65, and discusses about assigning the resource or facilities, e.g. assigning a guest to a particular room}.

c) retrieving from the inventory system booking data related to the facility and providing a quote for the booking;

{see col. 8, lines 35-63, col. 9, at least lines 20-47figure 2 (rate calculation 210), col. 24, lines 54- 67, discloses the retrieving information related to the reservation or booking process}

d) updating the inventory system associated with a booked facility from the inventory system

{see col. 4, lines 57-65; col. 17, lines 15-54; discloses update inventory and pricing information,

**As for claims 61-62**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses step of accessing, over the network from the centralized inventory system, pricing data associated with the booking of facilities {see figures 1-3, col. 7, lines 27-48}.

**As for claims 63-64**, which deals with the hospitality business entity e.g. a resort like a hotel or a cruise ship. This is fairly taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL {see col. 1, lines 54-67}.

**As for claim 64**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses the pricing data received from the centralized inventory system are updated on a continuing basis {see col. 3, lines 5-17}.

**As for claim 66**. GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein the pricing data reflects pricing that is optimized using a revenue management system {see abstract}

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

**5. Claims 1-28, 47-50** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GEOGHEGAN ET AL (US 7,328,166) alone or further in view of GEOGHEGAN ET AL (US 2005/0033613).

**As for claim 1**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses method for managing a hospitality organization having geographically distributed business entities providing one or more respective facilities, wherein arrangements with respect to use of the facilities provided by the business entities are made via one or more of a plurality of channels {see figure 1, col. 5, lines 50-67, col. 6, lines 1-10 "...multiple hotels (30) (facilities) in a chain that has property management system (PMS 20) or (business entities), the method comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a centralized inventory system for the business entities and the respective facilities associated with the business entities, wherein the centralized inventory system is configured for maintaining a single repository of data associated with a booking of the facilities;

{see col. 5, lines 41-51; col. 7, lines 63-67, col. 8, lines 19-22; and claim 13, discloses "*A Global Reservations Transaction Management (GRTMS) having a centralized inventory repository/database or single view inventory system for maintaining booking sources/ information*}"

(b) receiving via at least one of the plurality of channels a request for a pricing proposal associated with at least one of the facilities of at least one of the business entities

{see figures 2-3, col. 7, lines 5-9; discusses connection of inventory to distribution channel GDS (global distribution system) and Internet from the consumer, or travel agent; and see col. 15, lines 1-5, for a price requested; and col. 13, lines 30-36, requested room type and the rate; };

(c) generating a quote based on data residing in the centralized inventory system {see figure 2 (rate calculation 210), col. 24, lines 54- 67, col. 25, lines 1-35; and lines 60-67, col. 42, lines 50-54 discusses about the *rate/quote determine*};

(d) transmitting the quote in response to the request for price information {see col. 8, lines 46-63; col. 7, lines 42-45, transmitted the reservation data, e.g. rate; see col. 14, lines 56-57}.

Note: As for the phrase "the centralized inventory system configured for maintaining as a single repository of data associated with booking of the facilities", this is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL as cited in step (b) above. Furthermore, the feature of the centralized inventory system is configured as a one or more repositories or databases for storage and retrieval information is not that essential. It would have been obvious for maintaining information into plurality of databases or different storages in order to improved the redundancy in case of failure or combine all information into a single database for the convenience of accessing information as long as the

information or data can be queried, accessed, and retrieved from one single database or multiple databases.

As for the term "transmitting", this is inherently in the displaying function of GEOGHEGAN ET AL because data has to be sent from the system to the monitor for displaying.

Alternatively, PATULLO ET AL is merely cited to show well known function of transmitting a data from a device to another the device for displaying or informing the customer of the generated data (value), quote in response to the request for price information {par. 0013, 0023, figure 1 (elements 30 and 40) and figure 5 shows *price quote request is displayed*};

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modified the method of quote generating of GEOGHEGAN ET AL to include the transmitting the quote to the user as taught by PATULLO ET AL in order to get a customer an estimate amount of the total cost for a particular service. Note: for convenience, letters (a)–(d) are added to the beginning of each element.

**As for claim 2**, which deals with the quote generating using the data from the central inventory system, this is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL {see figure 2 (rate calculation 210), col. 24, lines 54- 67, col. 25, lines 1-35; and lines 60-67, col. 42, lines 50-54 discusses about the *rate/quote determine*};

**As for claim 3**, PATULLO ET AL disclose wherein the request for the pricing proposal/quote is received directly from a customer {see figure 1}.

**As for claims 4-5**, which deals with the requesting and transmitting the quote/pricing proposal to the user, e.g. staff member, this is taught in PATULLO ET AL {figure 1, par.0023}

**As for claims 6-8**, which deals with the quote, is generated in real time and using real-time data residing in the centralized inventory system. This is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL in col. 3, lines 6-17, col. 5, lines 1-5;

**As for claim 9**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL disclose the channel via which the request for quote /pricing proposal is received by the centralized inventory system {see figure 1, GDS 25}

**As for claim 10**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL disclose receiving an acceptance of the quote and provisionally allocating the at least one facility to which the quote relates {col. 27, lines 1-15, accept the quoted".

**As for claim 11**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses receiving payment for the provisionally allocated at least one facility {col. 15, lines 16-22, and lines 39-43}.

**As for claim 12**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses the allocating at least one facility {see col. 21, lines 11-15, and lines 28-35}.

**As for claim 13**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses the step of updating the centralized inventory system to reflect the provisionally allocated at least one facility {see col. 4, lines 57-65}.

**As for claim 14**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL disclose wherein the centralized inventory system is updated in real time {see col. 3, lines 6-17, col. 5, lines 1-5};

**As for claim 15**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL disclose updating the centralized inventory system to reflect the receipt of payment for the provisionally allocated at least one facility {see col. 3, lines 6-17, col. 5, lines 1-5};

**As for claim 16**, which deals with the centralized inventory is updated in real time, this is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL {see col. 3, lines 9-17}.

**As for claims 17-18**, which deals with updating the centralized inventory system in a real time, this is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL { see col. 3, lines 6-17, col. 4, lines 61-62; col. 5, lines 1-5};

**As for claims 19-20**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein at least one of the pluralities of channels comprises a global distribution system; a property management system associated with each individual one of the distributed global facilities. {see figure 1, GDS 25, and PMS 20}.

**As for claim 21**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein at least one of the pluralities of channels comprises a call reservation service {col. 6, lines 32-37}.

**As for claim 22**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein the geographically distributed business entities comprise properties of a hotel chain {see col. 6, lines 5-7, and figure 1}.

**As for claims 23-28**, which deals with a plurality of channels for receiving quote, e.g. travel agents, (or sales, internet, consumers) and this is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL, see col. 7, lines 5-6, and col. 5, lines 66-67}.

**As for independent claim 47**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL disclose a method for operating a central inventory system for a hospitality organization having a plurality of

geographically distributed business entities {see figure 1, col. 3, lines 5-8), the method comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a database associated with the central inventory system, the database configured for maintaining a single repository of centrally-generated price and availability data relating to facilities of the plurality of business entities

{see col. 5, lines 41-51; col. 7, lines 63-67, col. 8, lines 19-22; and claim 13, discloses "A Global Reservations Transaction Management (GRTMS) having a centralized inventory repository/database or single view inventory system for maintaining booking sources/ information}

(b) receiving a booking request for at least one facility of the plurality of business entities

{see figure 2, booking 230, and col. 23, lines 26-28 and col. 41, lines 37-38 discusses booking request from a guest or customer}

(c) based on the booking request, retrieving from the database data relating to the facility

{see col. 8, lines 51-67, col. 9, lines 1-14, lines 20-24, and lines 32-34, e.g. retrieve the reservation information e.g. hotel arrive date};

(d) processing the retrieved data to generate a quote for the facility {see figures 2-3 (rate calculation 210) col. 5, lines 51-60, processing the reservation transaction, including rate/quote information};

(e) transmitting the quote in response to the booking request

{see figure 2-3, col. 8, lines 46-63; col. 7, lines 42-45, transmitted the reservation data, e.g. rate; see col. 14, lines 56-57}

(f) receiving confirmation reflecting acceptance of the quote

{see col. 8, lines 35-45, col. 27, lines 1-8 confirm or accept *the quoted or confirm the booking results*; and

(g) updating the database based on receipt of the confirmation reflecting acceptance of the quote

{see col. 4, lines 57-65, for updating the inventory and pricing; col. 17, lines 19-20 discusses updating the hotel data e.g. price or quote}

Note: As for the phrase "the centralized inventory system configured for maintaining as a single repository of data associated with pricing and availability data of the facilities", this is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL as cited in step (b) above.

Furthermore, the feature of the centralized inventory system is configured as a one or more repositories or databases for storage and retrieval information is not that essential. It would have been obvious for maintaining information into plurality of databases or different storages in order to improved the redundancy in case of failure or combine all information into a single database for the convenience of accessing information as long as the information or data can be queried, accessed, and retrieved from one single database or multiple databases.

As for the term "transmitting", in step (e) this is inherently in the displaying function of GEOGHEGAN ET AL because data has to be sent from the system to the monitor for displaying.

Alternatively, PATULLO ET AL is merely cited to show well known function of transmitting a data from a device to another the device for displaying or informing the customer of the generated data (value), quote in response to the request for price information {par. 0013, 0023, figure 1 (elements 30 and 40) and figure 5 shows *price quote request is displayed*};

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modified the method of quote generating of GEOGHEGAN ET AL to include the transmitting the quote to the user as taught by PATULLO ET AL in order to get a customer an estimate amount of the total cost for a particular service.

**As for claim 48**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein the database is maintained on a real-time basis {see col. 3, lines 5-17}.

**As for claim 49**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein the retrieved data relating to the facility comprises price setting data {see figures 2-3 (rate calculation 210) col. 5, lines 51-60, processing the reservation transaction, including *rate/quote information*};

**As for claim 50**, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses the price setting data is derived on the basis of at least one selected from the group consisting of: market analysis relating to the facility type and characteristics {see figure 4, col. 19, lines 35-67, col. 20, lines 40 for different type of and characteristic of the facility}.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claims 1-5, 9, 20, 29, 36, 47, 51, 60, and 62 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

1) As for the rejection on 101 on the method claims 1, 47 and 60 Applicant has added new language in the preamble "A computer implemented method" is noted. However, the 101 rejection is maintained because, the involvement of the machine or transformation in the bodies of claimed process must not merely be insignificant extra-solution activity. See *Flook*, 437 U.S. at 590. Therefore the claims are directed to nonstatutory subject matter. Note: Insertion of the use of another statutory class (computer) such as "computer-implemented" or "using a computer" features in the preamble and the critical functions/bodies of the claims would overcome the rejections.

2) As for an argument on page 14, Applicant stated that GEOGHEGAN discloses synchronization of a federation of databases and not a single repository of data is noted. However, this is not persuasive. GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses a single database or a central inventory repository as a single view or one view of inventory system which include the booking sources to allow a guest or user to use for booking, rate calculation as shown on figure 2, col. 5, lines 40-49, col. 7, lines 29-67,

Note: As for the phrase "the centralized inventory system configured for maintaining as a single repository of data associated with pricing and availability data of the facilities", this is taught in GEOGHEGAN ET AL as cited above. Furthermore, the feature of the centralized inventory system is configured as a one or more repositories

or databases for storage and retrieval information is not that essential. It would have been obvious for maintaining information into plurality of databases or different storages in order to improved the redundancy in case of failure or combine all information into a single database for the convenience of accessing information as long as the information or data can be queried, accessed, and retrieved from one single database or multiple databases.

3) In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a single "front end" and "back end" features) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

### ***Conclusion***

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy-Vi Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janice Mooneyham can be reached on 571-272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. N./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/Tan Dean D. Nguyen/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3689